



PRESS RELEASE
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ORLANDO MAN ARRESTED FOR PRODUCING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez and Special Agent in Charge

Robert Weber, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, announced today that William Irey, a 49-year-old resident of Orlando, Florida, was arrested on charges that he produced child pornography. Irey faces a minimum penalty of 15 years' imprisonment and up to 30 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine and a term of supervised release of life. The government is also seeking forfeiture of the defendant's residence. The defendant had an initial appearance before a federal magistrate judge yesterday in Orlando, and was ordered held without bond.

The arrest of IREY is one of many in a nationwide investigation known as Operation Emissary, which was initiated by the New Jersey ICE offices in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey. The nationwide investigation focused on a commercial website offering access to videos and images of hardcore child pornography. The website, which was accessible via the Internet, alerted would-be subscribers that subscribing to the website was illegal and warned them to be discreet about their purchase.

The nationwide arrests were of individuals who subscribed to the website over a period of approximately two to three months at the end of 2005 and early 2006. Arrests have been made in more than 22 states to date. In addition, more than 225 search warrants have been executed on the personal computers of individual subscribers, and additional arrests are expected as that evidence is reviewed. Arrests to date include a significant number of individuals who have been previously convicted of sex offenses against minors, and the arrests have also led to the discovery of individuals who have been actively molesting children.

This investigation is being conducted under the auspices of ICE's Operation Predator and the Department of Justice's initiative, Project Safe Childhood. Both initiatives target those who prey on and exploit children, including Internet pornographers, international sex tourists, and human traffickers. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information on Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Also, assisting in the investigation was the Orange County Sheriff's Office and the Brevard County Sheriff's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Cynthia A. Hawkins.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.